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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

16 JUNE 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Ladera Ranch – California Resident Organized 'Armed Fighters' for US Capitol Riot

(U) A Ladera Ranch entrepreneur is suspected of "organizing and fomenting" a group of "armed fighters" to stop Congress' certification of the presidential election, according to a court filing by federal prosecutors on Tuesday expanding on his alleged role in the 6 January US Capitol riot. The filing comes as prosecutors are attempting to keep Russell Taylor, 40, in custody pending trial. In the new filing, federal prosecutors explicitly accuse Taylor of setting up a chat group on the messaging app Telegram in order to "organize a group of 'fighters' to travel to Washington DC with weapons for 6 January 2021 to prevent the peaceful transfer of power."

SOURCE: 15 June 2021, The Mercury News

(U) San Clemente – Former Police Chief Pleads Not Guilty to US Capitol Attack Charges

(U) Alan Hostetter, 56, the former La Habra police chief accused of conspiring with other activists who stormed the US Capitol building seeking to stop Congress from certifying President Joe Biden's election, pleaded not guilty to the charges. Hostetter appeared along with five other co-defendants from Southern California, some who were members of the American Phoenix Project anti-COVID-19 restrictions group he founded last year, and others who belonged to the Three-Percenters, who purport to be an anti-government militia. Federal prosecutors charged Hostetter with conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding, and aiding and abetting his alleged co-conspirators. The two charges carry a total sentence of 30-years in prison.

SOURCE: 15 June 2021, The Mercury News

(U) San Jose – San Jose Mandates Video Taping of Gun Purchases

(U) San Jose leaders passed a new gun law that requires retailers to video-record all firearm purchases, becoming the largest city in California and one of the first major cities in America to do so. The new ordinance, which was unanimously approved by the city council, aims to deter illegal gun purchases known as straw purchasing, a practice where someone buys a gun for another person, such as felons and minors who are barred from owning firearms.

SOURCE: 16 June 2021, The Mercury News

(U) Twentynine Palms – Authorities Recover Missing Explosives from Marine Base

(U) The Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) has recovered several pounds of C-4 that went missing from Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, California, in January, according to an agency spokesman. Those explosives have been recovered and the NCIS investigation remains ongoing, no arrests have been made and no charges have been filed at this time. SOURCE: 15 June 2021, Marine Corps Times

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – Fort Hood Soldiers Were Being Paid to Smuggle People Across US-Mexico Border

(U) Fort Hood – Two Fort Hood soldiers were caught smuggling undocumented immigrants in South Texas, according to the Department of Justice. The active duty soldiers were in their Army uniforms and

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acting like they were on official business when they pulled up to a Hebbronville Border Patrol checkpoint Sunday morning. Money was apparently the motivation for the soldiers, prosecutors say, as the two soldiers "expected to receive an undetermined amount of money" for transporting their passengers from McAllen to San Antonio, Texas.

SOURCE: 15 June 2021, Yahoo! News

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia - US Lays Out Plan to Confront White Supremacist Violence

(U) Washington DC – President Joe Biden's administration on Tuesday unveiled a plan to address the threat of violence posed by white supremacists and militias, five-months after members of those groups joined in a deadly attack on the US Capitol. The White House released a 30-page plan for increased information sharing between federal and local officials and social media companies, additional resources to identify and prosecute threats and new deterrents to prevent Americans from joining dangerous groups.

SOURCE: 15 June 2021, Reuters

(U) District of Columbia – Sweeping Bill to Address China Tech Threat Likely to Take Weeks

(U) Washington DC – A highly touted bill to boost the United States' ability to compete with Chinese technology could take weeks to get through Congress, as US House of Representatives lawmakers planned to write their own legislation, which must then be combined with what was approved by the Senate this month. The Bill is attempting to ensure US competitive status with China and also deals with some of the nefarious things that China does to pursue unfair trade tactics with the US, including intellectual property theft.

SOURCE: 15 June 2021, Reuters

(U) District of Columbia - Some US Lost or Stolen US Military Weapons Were Used in Street Crimes

(U) Washington DC – In the first public accounting of its kind in decades, an investigation has found that at least 1,900 US military firearms were lost or stolen during the 2010s, with some resurfacing in violent crimes. Government records covering the Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force show pistols, machine guns, shotguns, and automatic assault rifles have vanished from armories, supply warehouses, Navy warships and elsewhere. These weapons of war disappeared because of security failures that, until now, have not been publicly reported.

SOURCE: 15 June 2021, KCRA

(U) Texas – Southwest Airlines Cancels 500 Flights After Computer Issues Ground Fleet

(U) Dallas – Southwest Airlines said yesterday it canceled about 500 flights and delayed hundreds of others after it was forced to temporarily halt operations over a computer issue, marking the second time in 24-hours the airline had been forced to stop flights. The Federal Aviation Administration said it had issued a temporary nationwide groundstop at the request of Southwest Airlines to resolve a computer reservation issue. The groundstop lasted about 45-minutes. Southwest said its operations were returning to normal. The issue was the result of "intermittent performance issues with our network connectivity."

SOURCE: 15 June 2021, Reuters

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Colombia – Car Bomb Explosion at Military Base injures 36 People

(U) Cucuta – A car bomb explosion at a military base in the Colombian border city of Cucuta injured 36

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people on Tuesday, the defense minister said, casting blame for the attack on leftist rebels. The explosion took place at a base used by the 30th Army Brigade in the northeastern city near the border with Venezuela. One of the injured has had surgery and 29 are hospitalized.

SOURCE: 15 June 2021, Reuters

(U) Israel – Israel Strikes Hamas Sites Over Fire Balloon Attacks

(U) Jerusalem – Israeli aircraft struck Hamas sites in Gaza on Wednesday after incendiary balloons were launched from the Palestinian enclave in the first such attacks since a fragile ceasefire ended 11 days of deadly fighting last month. The military said the strikes came in response to the launching of balloons laden with incendiary material, which the Israeli fire brigade reported caused 20 blazes in open fields in communities near the Gaza border.

SOURCE: 16 June 2021, Reuters

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